

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-16, 41 and 42 are in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 6-8 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found at par. [0065] in the published version of the application, US 2004/0082385 A1. No claim is allowed.

Claims 1, 4-16 and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Cole et al. (“Cole,” US 2004/0137978) in view of Atwater et al. (“Atwater,” US 2001/0010689) and Lazzarotto et al (“Lazzarotto,” US 6,782,194(stet): US 6,782,245). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is again noted that there is a typographical error in the office action in the patent number of Lazzarotto.

The examiner cites Par. [0119] and [0120] in Cole. In Par. [0119], it is disclosed that game station **20** may comprise two separate units and that the second unit may be linked to the first with a wireless connection permitting transfer of credit information. But it is not shown that the gaming units have a communications manager that can configure a peripheral controller to communicate wirelessly with a master gaming controller, peripheral devices, or both. Par. [0119] discloses the transmittal of only credit information between machines. That is not the same as managing and configuring peripheral controllers. Par. [0120] discloses that two games (not the gaming machines per se) may be linked to a single coupon reader, either through a single master controller, or through separate gaming controllers. This does not show that a gaming controller in a gaming machine necessarily wirelessly manages and configures the coupon reader. In view of the teachings of Par. [0119], if there is any wireless communication, it is only to transmit credit information between gaming machines. Accordingly, Cole is at least defective in showing

a wireless communication manager executed by the master gaming controller adapted for managing wireless communications between (i) the master gaming controller and the peripheral devices, (ii) the peripheral devices, or both (i) and (ii); and

the wireless communication manager further adapted to configure a peripheral controller associated with one of the one or more of the peripheral devices to be configured to communicate wirelessly with the

master gaming controller, another peripheral device, or both the master gaming controller and another peripheral device;

the wireless communication manager adapted for managing wireless communications including being adapted to configure the peripheral controller by assigning a communication identification key to the peripheral controller.

Cole can only manage the peripherals using the master gaming controller 101 (FIG. 6) in the configuration for which the system is wired. Configuration or reconfiguration of the peripheral controller by a communication manager is not addressed in Cole.

Atwater does not address the configuration or reconfiguration of a peripheral controller. In [0008] it teaches replacing *wires* with a *short range radio link* but this is related to connecting an external peripheral to a mother device. This merely addresses a communication link. In [0095] a single chip embodiment is described which is allegedly designed to implement communication of a CPU to peripherals using a designated IEEE transmission band and a Bluetooth band such that when transmission in one band occurs the other band is disabled. This does not show that there is a communication manager that is adapted to configure a peripheral controller (618, 620) to communicate wirelessly with a master controller or two or more peripherals to communicate wirelessly with one another. The only wireless communication is between the chip 600 and peripherals. The examiner states that no CPU communicates directly with peripherals without the aid of a driver circuit. However, *mere ability to communicate* is not the same as the capability to *configure a device remotely*. For example, two cell phones can communicate with each other, but neither can configure the other. Accordingly, it is submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teaching of Cole and Atwater to provide a gaming machine master gaming controller with a wireless communication manager, executed by the master gaming controller, that is adapted among other functions to configure peripheral controls in a manner as recited in the claims.

The reliance on Lazzarotto does not remedy the deficiencies of Cole and Atwater. Furthermore, Lazzarotto (3:17-31) does not disclose a wireless communication manager adapted to configure a peripheral controller by assigning a communication identification key to the Application No.: 10/661,404

peripheral controller. The cited passage relates to decoding an incoming data signal from a peripheral and to determine if it is valid (i.e. no errors; see 6:48-54) and if it is compatible with the current USB format in use. The processor 106 (Fig. 1 in Lazzarotto) is not a peripheral controller. See the peripheral controllers 124 in Fig. 1 of the present application. The processor 106, as presumably applied by the examiner by reference to Lazzarotto 3:1-41, is a wireless communication manager. But is it not suggested or disclosed to have the capability of configuring each peripheral device through its controller. Decoding an incoming data signal is not the capability of configuring the peripheral device. Thus, Lazzarotto fails to suggest a

wireless communication manager adapted to configure a peripheral controller associated with one of the one or more of the peripheral devices to be configured to communicate wirelessly with the master gaming controller, another peripheral device, or both the master gaming controller and another peripheral device;

the wireless communication manager adapted for managing wireless communications including being adapted to configure the peripheral controller by assigning a communication identification key to the peripheral controller.

It is submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teaching of Cole and Atwater in view of Lazzarotto to provide a gaming machine master gaming controller with a wireless communication manager, capable configuring peripheral controllers in such a manner as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the independent claims and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the combination of Cole and Atwater with Lazzarotto. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that entry of this amendment places the above-identified patent application in condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If, in the opinion of the examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this

application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P060X2).

Respectfully submitted,
Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP
/Reginald J. Suyat/
Reginald J. Suyat
Reg. No. 28,172

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(510) 663-1100